



Southeast News

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME 17

JULY 1969

NUMBER 9



Rev. Robert V. Moss Jr. Is New President Of United Church Of Christ

Dr. Robert V. Moss, president of Lancaster Seminary since 1957, was elected as the new president of the United Church of Christ, replacing the Rev. Ben M. Herbster.

Dr. Moss became instructor in the Department of Religion of Franklin and Marshall College in 1946. He was assistant professor of Religion from 1950 to 1951, and from 1951 has been professor of New Testament in the Seminary, a graduate school of Theology related to the United Church of Christ. Dr. Herbster, a former Evangelical and Reformed minister, was the first president of the church. Dr. Moss was ordained in the Evangelical and Reformed Church in 1946.

Dr. Moss is co-chairman of the Presbyterian - Catholic Dialogue Group in the U. S. A. He was president of the American Association of Theological Schools, 1966-1968, and prior to that for two years was chairman of the Association's Commission on Accrediting.

He was an observer at Vatican Council II, and a delegate to the Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches in New Delhi, India.

He is a member of the Lancaster Ci-

Former Congregational Minister Given Prison Term In Rhodesia

Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole has been sentenced to six years' imprisonment at hard labor for allegedly conspiring, from his prison cell, to murder Rhodesia's Prime Minister Ian Smith.

He had already been held without trial since 1964 for "dangerous" political activities.

Mr. Sithole had no formal education until he found his way to a Disciples mission primary school. He then became a teacher and, while working full time at this, studied privately and passed official examinations, first for high school and then for his B. A. degree.

While a teacher at Mt. Silinda he committed himself to the full-time Christian ministry and after a few years came to the United States where he studied and received the Bachelor of Divinity degree from Andover Newton Theological School. On his return to Mt. Silinda, he served as chaplain, pastor, and teacher until the plight of his people forced him, on the grounds of conscience, to be involved full-time in nationalist politics.

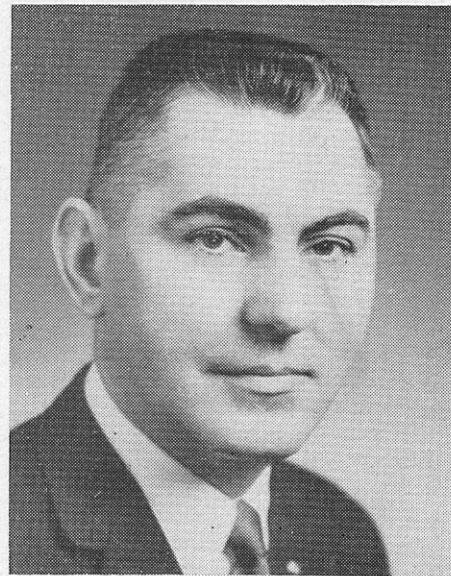
ty Board of Education and of the Lancaster Free Public Library Board. He is also a trustee of Cedar Crest College, Allentown, Pa.

Dr. Moss was born in Wilson, N. C., in 1922. He received an A. B. degree from Franklin and Marshall College in 1943; a B. D. from Lancaster Theological Seminary in 1945; and his Ph.D from the University of Chicago in 1954. Franklin and Marshall granted him a D. D. in 1960, and Findlay College a D. D. in 1967.

He is the author of three books: *The Life of Paul*, *We Believe*, and *As Paul Sees Christ*.

Dr. Moss is a member of the American Academy of Religion, the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis, Phi Beta Kappa, and Pi Gamma Mu.

(Continued on Page 2)



CHARLES H. LOCKYEAR, Treasurer

General Synod Takes Action

The 7th General Synod, meeting in Boston, Mass., June 25 - July 2, 1969, took actions, including these:

ELECTED AS OFFICERS:

Rev. Robert V. Moss Jr., Lancaster, Pa., President

Mr. Charles H. Lockyear, New York, Treasurer

Richard C. Pfeiffer, Ohio, Moderator of General Synod

Rev. T. S. Ledbetter, Washington, D. C., Vice-Moderator

Mrs. T. R. Wagner, Conn., Vice-Moderator

OTHER ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:

Rev. J. H. Hargett, California, Secretary for Black Ministries

Rev. J. B. Wagner, Pa., Chairman of the Executive Council

Rev. K. B. Smith, Illinois, Vice-Chairman of Executive Council

Rev. John C. Mickle, Tenn., Chairman of Budget Committee

OTHER ACTIONS:

Approved a budget of \$11,500,000 for 1970. Called upon the churches to set a goal for Basic Support of Our Christian World Mission equal to at least 25% of its current local expenses. Asked each church to support the "Crisis

(Continued on Page 6)

Flick Installed As Pastor

The Rev. Donald P. Flick was installed as pastor of the First Congregational Church, Knoxville, Tenn., on June 1, 1969. The installing officer was the Rev. William R. Winterbottom, moderator of the Tenn.-Ky. Association. Neighboring churches shared in the Service of Installation. Mr. Robert Livingston, chairman of the Program Committee of the church, presented Mr. Flick for installation.

During the morning service at the church Mr. and Mrs. Flick were received into membership of the church, along with the following people: the Rev. and Mrs. Max Glenn, Miss Rosemary Payne, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Harms, and Mr. and Mrs. Ben Eller. Mr. Livingston, along with the Conference Minister, W. J. Andes, received the group into the fellowship of the church.

The Knoxville Church is busily engaged in a study program determining the possible ministry of the church in future years, trying to discover the place for a church building, as well as facilities that would house a variety of ministries that the church could render to the City of Knoxville.

Rev. and Mrs. Flick served the Church of the Master in Hickory, N.C., before coming to Knoxville. Mr. Flick has now joined the Tenn.-Ky. Association and has already started a ministry of service in that Association.

CENTRAL CHURCH, ATLANTA, has decided to focus on helping in the work of Trinity Day Care Center, in which a year-round "Head Start" child development program is now provided for 35 children of poverty stricken families.

Where The Money Goes: Non-Metropolitan Ministries In USA

This year the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries is budgeting nearly \$200,000 for non-metropolitan ministries. This includes some \$142,114 for non-metropolitan people in poverty. Projects in area-wide planning for the total community, primarily in Vermont and Maine, are due to receive \$8,500.

Our ecumenical work in non-metropolitan areas from South Dakota to Pennsylvania total some \$4,500. Training projects for leaders in all these areas are due to receive \$33,500.

NEWS BRIEFS

ALL CHURCHES face the problem of ongoing expenses during the summer months. Don't forget your regular contributions to the church while you are on vacation.

* * * *

MINUTES of the Third Annual Session and DIRECTORY of Boards, Committees, and Commissions is being mailed out to each pastor and church clerk.

* * * *

THOSE ATTENDING GENERAL SYNOD in Boston from S. E. Conference: Rev. and Mrs. Arnold Slater, Rev. Karlton C. Johnson, Rev. Edward M. Brown, Mrs. W. Walter Hall, Rev. Homer C. McEwen, Rev. W. J. Andes, Conference Minister, Mr. and Mrs. William R. Green Jr., Rev. and Mrs. Fred Meyer, and Rev. Andrew L. Cooper.

* * * *

REV. COLLIE SEYMOUR, formerly of SEC, was honored with a special service and gift by the two churches he serves near Kannapolis, N. C., upon the 25th anniversary of his ordination. Janet Seymour, who recently graduated from Elon College, serves as church organist.

* * * *

REV. FREDERICK A. MEYER, minister of Central Church, Atlanta, is now on a sabbatical leave of ten weeks. After attending the General Synod in Boston, he will go to Mansfield College in Oxford, England, for study July 11 - August 1. He and Mrs. Meyer will return to New York August 6.

Crutchfield Ordained

The Ordination Service of Kendall Crutchfield was held at First U. C. C. Evangelical & Reformed Church, Nashville, Tenn., on Sunday morning, June 15, 1969, at 10:30 a. m. The ordination sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Walter H. Krebs of the St. Louis area and the service was followed immediately by a reception held in Fellowship Hall of the church.

REV. ROBERT V. MOSS JR.

(Continued from Page 1)

Dr. and Mrs. Moss, the former Junia Keppel, have three children: Robert III, 21, who is stationed with the U. S. Army in Korea; John K., 19, recently wounded in Vietnam and now hospitalized in the U. S.; and Timothy, 16.

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. W. J. Hill of Birmingham, Ala., died June 17, 1969. Her funeral was conducted by her pastor, Rev. Andrew Cooper of the First Congregational Church of Birmingham. She and her husband served for many years as wife and pastor of churches in the northern part of Alabama. Her husband preceded her in death.

* * * *

Mrs. Loren Burch, wife of Rev. Loren Burch of Demorest, Georgia, died May 23, 1969. Her husband is pastor of the Demorest United Church, as well as a member of the faculty at Piedmont College in Demorest.

First Church, Atlanta, Holds Bible School Again This Summer

In cooperation with parents from Carver Community, First Congregational Church again will work in a Bible School program during the summer.

The six weeks program began June 16. Two sessions of 3 weeks each will be held, with classes limited to 20 students each — total enrollment for the summer of 120.

Age groups: 5-6, 7-8, 9-11 years. Each class was to have 3 teachers and classes to be held from 9:15 a. m. to 12:30 p. m. daily, with Friday devoted to visiting speakers, trips, and handicraft.

The personnel taking charge of the project was to be composed of volunteers from First Church.

U. S. Drug Manufacturers Give To Interchurch Medical Assistance

The annual contribution by U. S. drug manufacturers to Interchurch Medical Assistance (IMA) will reach \$15 million at manufacturers' prices during 1969.

The announcement was made at the recent dedication ceremonies of the new IMA warehouse at the Church World Service Center in New Windsor, Maryland. IMA provides medical supplies for 400 hospitals in 40 countries throughout the world, operated by 26 Protestant church groups.

Our Christian World Mission –

BASIC SUPPORT ONLY

	Church Goal 1969	Received Through 6/30/69		Church Goal 1969	Received Through 6/30/69	
ALABAMA						
Alpine, King's Chapel	240.00	0	Braselton, Macedonia	300.00	60.00	
Andalusia, Antioch	720.00	0	Bristol, Antioch	50.00	0	
Andalusia, First	390.00	0	Buford, Duncan's Creek	480.00	25.00	
Arley, Robertson's Chapel	385.00	15.00	Columbus, First	930.00	0	
Athens, Trinity	90.00	0	Columbus, United	390.00	0	
Birmingham, First	1,530.00	0	Crest, Hebron			
Birmingham, Pilgrim	2,070.00	0	Demorest, Federated	390.00	200.00	
Birmingham, St. John's	1,740.00	33.05	Dosrun, New Light	50.00	0	
Brantley, Indian Creek*	90.00	0	Doerun, Poplar Arbor	90.00	0	
Brantley, Liberty	50.00	0	Douglas, First	100.00	0	
Caddo, Cong'l Christian	390.00	0	Enigma, Christian	330.00	0	
Clio, New Hope	180.00	100.00	Gaillard, Pleasant Hill	270.00	0	
Cullman, St. John's	1,260.00	616.65	Hampton, County Line	100.00	0	
East Tallassee, Cong'l Christian	750.00	266.50	Macon, First	150.00	0	
Eclectic, Watson's Chapel	50.00	0	Meansville, First	50.00	0	
Garden City, Congregational	264.00	100.00	McIntosh, Midway	390.00	125.00	
Hackleburg, Fairview	150.00	0	Pearson, Union Hill	457.00	208.00	
Haleyville, Union Grove	390.00	0	Richland, First	120.00	0	
Hanceville, Mt. Grove	300.00	30.00	Richland, Providence Chapel	210.00	0	
Headland, Blackwood	540.00	163.84	Savannah, First	600.00	0	
Houston, Liberty Hill	60.00	0	Thomasville, Bethany	120.00	0	
Huntsville, United	1,753.00	166.66	Tifton, Vanceville			
Marion, First	150.00	0	Waycross, Williams Chapel	780.00	67.50	
Midland City, Christian Hill (Inactive)	50.00	0	Woodbury, Jones Chapel	630.00	0	
Montgomery, First	570.00	200.00	KENTUCKY			
Montgomery, United	570.00	250.00	Evarts, First	1,210.00	0	
Moulton, Jones Chapel	150.00	0	Stearns, Community (Inactive)	50.00	0	
Mountain Creek, Union	330.00	0	MISSISSIPPI			
Selma, First	90.00	11.00	Tougaloo, Union	302.00	175.00	
Seman, Community	50.00	0	SOUTH CAROLINA			
Steele, Mt. Lebanon	270.00	0	Charleston, Circular	1,380.00	208.30	
Talladega, United	330.00	0	Charleston, Plymouth	810.00	125.00	
Tallassee, Mt. Olive	600.00	125.00	TENNESSEE			
Town Creek, Old Liberty	330.00	0	Belvidere, United	2,640.00	1,838.00	
Wetumpka, Balm of Gilead	60.00	0	Chattanooga, First	330.00	330.00	
CHURCHES OF THE EAST ALABAMA ASSOCIATION						
		2,000.00	Chattanooga, Pilgrim	4,785.00	3,240.00	
FLORIDA			Crossville, First	1,422.00	75.00	
Baker, Good Hope	180.00	0	Daisy, Congregational	480.00	300.00	
Baker, Pyron's Chapel	50.00	0	Deer Lodge, Congregational	183.00	76.96	
Bonifay, New Effort	150.00	0	Glen Mary, Congregational	90.00	45.00	
GEORGIA			Knoxville, First	1,980.00	711.49	
Ambrose, Christian	240.00	0	Nashville, Brookmeade	930.00	200.00	
Atlanta, Carroll Heights	180.00	0	Nashville, First E & R	2,997.00	1,000.00	
Atlanta, Center (Inactive)			Nashville, Fisk Union	930.00	0	
Atlanta, Central	7,205.00	3,600.00	Nashville, Howard	630.00	69.64	
Atlanta, First	4,620.00	600.00	Pleasant Hill, Community	930.00	500.00	
Atlanta, Rush Memorial	960.00	61.00	Robbins, Barton Chapel	143.00	75.00	
Barnesville, Fredonia	480.00	150.00	Soddy, First (Inactive)		1,000.00	
Baxley, Friendship	50.00	0	Sweetwater, First	750.00	168.00	
Beachton, Evergreen	240.00	69.00	TOTAL FROM CHURCHES			
Bonanza, United		400.50			19,815.24	
Bowman, Liberty	210.00	34.15	OTHER			
					353.85	
			TOTAL O. C. W. M. RECEIPTS			
					20,169.19	
			THRU JUNE 30, 1969			

From The Pastor's Desk

The Rev. George Gerald Parker expressed very well a problem every church is faced with in the following paragraphs:

"A familiar phrase in the public press is 'drop-outs.' It refers to young people who have 'dropped out' of high school before graduation. Now the church calls attention to another group of 'deprived' children: namely, the 'drop-offs'. They are not new, but they continue to deserve our attention. They are the children who are brought to the church on Sunday and 'dropped off' by their parents.

"This points to a basic characteristic of religious education. It is 'caught as well as taught.' It is dependent for its strength on example as well as on instruction. When parents do not attend church but simply drop off their children, the children soon catch the idea that religious education is not very important since their parents do not take part. Then, no matter how effective the church's instruction may be, the unconscious attitude makes it difficult to involve the children.

"To this group I would add another — 'the snatched-ups' — those children snatched up by parents after Sunday School and taken home.

"Little do we realize the dangers of the 'drop-off' and 'snatched-up' children and the 'drop-out' parents. The results of these dangers do not become manifest until years later and then it's too late. If you really think it's worthwhile, bring them and stay with them. If, however, you do not think it worthwhile, why not help us make it so!"

J. J. Roemer, Pastor
1st U. C. C.-E & R Church
Nashville, Tenn.

Father's Day Breakfast Honors Deacon Thomas

A Father's Day breakfast, honoring Franklin W. Thomas, was given Sunday morning, June 15, 1969, at 9:00 a. m., by the First Congregational Church of Atlanta.

Besides being a deacon in First Church, Mr. Thomas is co-moderator of the Georgia - South Carolina Association of the United Church of Christ, and in 1968-69 was a member of the Church and Ministry Commission of the Southeast Conference.

Mr. Thomas is leaving Atlanta to take up his new duties in the YMCA



Rev. B. E. Lewis Resigns At Sweetwater, Tenn.

The Rev. Benjamin E. Lewis, pastor of the First United Church of Christ, Sweetwater, Tennessee, for the past nine years, has resigned, effective June 30, 1969, to begin work in a team ministry at Lincoln Temple Church, Washington, D. C., where the Rev. Channing E. Phillips is pastor. Mr. Lewis begins his work there as of July 1, 1969.

Mr. Lewis was a sophomore in college when he went to Sweetwater. He has since graduated from college and from the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. During this period of service in Sweetwater the church building has been renovated, a new parsonage has been built, and a ministry to the entire community has been negotiated.

On July 1, 1968, Mr. Lewis became a part-time "advisor in community relations and human resources" for the United Church Chapel-on-the-Hill in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He worked as a liaison between the members of the United Church and members of the Negro community. His work has been highly successful. It has received the praise of both congregations, of the Southeast Conference, and of the Board for Homeland Ministries.

Mr. Lewis, his wife, and four children will leave Sweetwater on Monday, June 30, 1969, for their new home in the nation's capitol. They will be greatly missed from our area.

in its national headquarters in New York City. We wish him well.

Cullman Pastor Comments On First Anniversary

From the Pastor's Desk:

Today begins our second year together! We have enjoyed living here and appreciate all your kindnesses. Let us not look back, but look ahead to see how we can further the cause of Christ and His church. The world is moving fast and we must move with it. Halford Lucecock seems to have something at this point:

"If the church marries a given generation, she is sure to be a widow in the next, and that without visible means of support. This means that a church is always in a bad way if a generation accepts it as completely relevant. Some of our stuff must always be out of date to the pagans and impractical to the moderns. We had better be relevant to God rather than to the present generation."

Our relevance must be to God and to His purpose, and that purpose has never changed—that all people should be drawn to Him. To that end and for that purpose we must work. Not only must we try to grow, but we must have a program for those who want to grow in understanding and involvement.

We are not to judge other people's Christianity by our own. There are differing gifts of the Spirit. Some are prophets, some are teachers, some administrators, some are visitors, some are singers, and so forth. There is a task for everyone in the church.

May we be deeply concerned for those outside the church. May we drop sarcasm and rudeness from our conversations. Together — with God's help — there is no limit to our service. May we develop our potential in the year to come.

Sincerely,
George A. Fidler, Pastor
Cullman, Alabama

Daughter Arrives At The Smallwood Home

Lisa Michele Smallwood was born June 6, 1969, to the Rev. and Mrs. Edward M. Smallwood of Columbus, Georgia. Mr. Smallwood is pastor of the First United Church of Christ in Columbus, having been there for some years.

We congratulate both parents and baby.

Pastors May Have Study Opportunity

Roland F. Schlueter, director of Continuing and Lay Education at Lancaster Theological Seminary, advises that increasing numbers of congregations are making provision for study opportunities for their pastors, both by allowing appropriate time in addition to vacation, and by providing financial support to assist in the expense of such study.

Returning to the campus of a seminary, though for a relatively brief period, can be rewarding for both pastor and his congregation, as the pastor can make use of the library and other facilities of the seminary, to acquaint himself with the currents and thrusts of contemporary theological education and then share his acquired learning with his congregation.

Lancaster Seminary has arranged to make available a furnished one-bedroom apartment on the campus adequate for a pastor and his wife, at modest rental, beginning Feb. 1, 1970. The seminary will be happy to make arrangements for pastors to rent the apartment for two weeks or longer between February and May, or to make preliminary arrangements for any time during the academic year 1970-71.

Further information may be obtained by writing Mr. Schlueter at Lancaster Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.

To Edit "Ministry"

Robert G. Kemper, pastor of Watchung Church, Upper Montclair, N. J., has resigned to accept the editorship of a new magazine, "Ministry", to be published by the Interdenominational Christian Century Foundation. The bimonthly, with editorial offices in Chicago, will be directed to the parish ministry. Mr. Kemper will also be an associate editor of the Christian Century.

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

Second-Class Postage Paid at
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

Published monthly by and for
the churches of the

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
The United Church of Christ

P. O. Box 29883

Atlanta, Ga. 30329 633-5655

Subscription Rate \$1.00 Per Year
Printed by The Roanoke Leader

Roanoke, Alabama

Vol. 17

July 1969

No. 9

HUNGER - U. S. A.

Free food stamps will be distributed in two South Carolina counties, for the first time, to families with less than \$30 a month income, by the Department of Agriculture.

* * * *

Surplus commodities are foods farmers cannot sell and nobody else wants. The Department of Agriculture gets rid of them by giving them to the poor. There are no green vegetables, no eggs, no fresh meat, fresh milk or fruit. For too many who receive them, commodities are the entire diet.

* * * *

Dialogue in San Antonio, Texas

Reporter: Why is this girl being detained?

Social Worker: She was picked up for soliciting for prostitution.

R: How old is she?

S. W.: She's eleven.

R: Is this an unusual case?

S. W.: Unusual because of her age, but I do have quite a number of girls that are involved in it.

R: Why would a girl this age go into prostitution?

S. W.: Well, in talking to them the reason they give me is so they can get money to buy food because they don't have any at home.

* * * *

Dialogue in Hale County, Alabama

Reporter: How many children are there to feed?

Mrs. Z.: Ten children.

R: What did you have for dinner today?

Mrs. Z.: I didn't have any dinner.

R: What does your husband make when he's working in the hay fields?

Mrs. Z.: Three to four dollars a day, but he hasn't worked now for three or four weeks.

R: Do you get food stamps?

Mrs. Z.: No, sir. The last time I went to Welfare the lady told me — said if you have a living husband they can't give you no help.

Permission has been received from the Vatican for Roman Catholic women in the United States to serve as lectors, commentators and song leaders at the Mass under special circumstances. The ruling will apply chiefly to women in religious orders, but may be extended to others when male lectors are not available.

National Workshop For Christian Unity Held

For the first time, area ecumenical officers of the major American Christian communions met together.

The occasion was the National Workshop for Christian Unity, held in Philadelphia June 15-19, and hosted by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The communions are the Episcopal Church, the United Presbyterian Church, the United Methodist Church, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the United Church of Christ, several Lutheran bodies and the Roman Catholic Church.

Keynoting the Workshop was Cardinal-Designate Jan Willebrands, recently named president of the Secretariat of Christian Unity. Among other noted speakers were the Rt. Rev. Robert Stopford, D. D., Anglican Bishop of London, and the Rev. Johann Metz, German theologian.

Supplementing the addresses and workshops was a Unity Procession to a Black Baptist Church; liturgical observances at a Black Baptist Church, at St. George's Greek Orthodox Church, at the Cathedral of SS Peter and Paul (with John Cardinal Krol, Archbishop of Philadelphia, as officiant), and at the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends.

FROM TASK FORCE

Can you name five words that have noticeably changed their meanings since the King James Version of 1611 — meanings which are necessary to a full understanding of the Bible?

There are many, many such words. For instance, the King James Version used "hell" interchangeably, both for "Hades" — (which simply meant "the abode of the dead") and for "Gehenna" (which meant "the place of punishment"). Here are a few other distinct changes.

amazed (Mk. 14:33) — distressed
bowels (Ph. 1:8) — heart
by & by (Matt. 13:21) — immediately
carriages (Acts 21:15) — baggage
charger (Matt. 14:8) — platter
conversation (1 Pet.) — behavior
let (Romans 1:13) — hindered
nephews (1 Tim. 5) — grandchildren
rioting (Romans 13:13) — carousing
vile (Ph. 3:21) — humble
wealth (1 Cor. 10) — good

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS
P. O. Box 29883
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

Mrs. Carl H. Henry
4937 Long Island Dr. N.E.
Atlanta, Ga. 30327

Second Class Postage Paid
at Atlanta, Georgia

United Methodist Church Uses Pilgrim, Chattanooga, Facilities

The Chattanooga Times on Monday, May 5, reported that on Sunday afternoon, May 4, the Stanley Methodist Church, which is located a few blocks from Pilgrim Church, was destroyed by fire. In the absence of the minister, who was speaking at the Illinois South Conference as the Executive Council representative, the moderator of Pilgrim Church, Sherwood Landrum, along with William Haemmel, chairman of Stewardship and Christian World Mission, and the other members of the Church Council, decided to offer the use of Pilgrim church's sanctuary for Sunday night services of this congregation.

The Rev. Charles Young, minister of Stanley Methodist Church, and his people accepted the invitation and will use it until further arrangements can be made.

A Reader Expresses Wishes For The Southeast News

"The church people want to read something about God, Faith, and Hope. They need assurance spoken by our ministers and mission workers who are working with and through the people at home and abroad. You can reach the people through the written word if you give it to them on their level and understanding. Give them new horizons, new challenges, new ways — for reaching our generation."

Minnie Lee Thomas
Trinity, Alabama

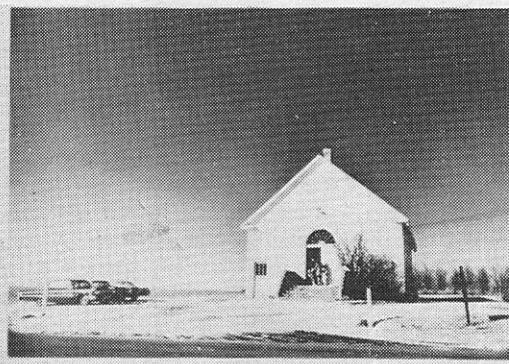
Congratulations To Colloquy!

After a publication lifetime of only one year, this magazine was chosen to receive an Award of Merit from the Associated Church Press. The award was given "in recognition of outstanding performance in religious journalism, as demonstrated by its superior blending of meaningful content, visual appeal, and editorial imagination in the fulfillment of its stated purpose."

In the
U.S.
what do your gifts
for Our Christian
World Mission do?

You help provide:

* financial aid to struggling churches in
isolated rural communities



GENERAL SYNOD

(Continued from Page 1)

in the Nation" program equal to 1%-5% of their local current expenses. Suggested a minimum of a tithe as the goal for the individual giving, at least half of which (5%) should be given through the church.

Heard the report of the Committee on Structure, which had some proposals for early implementation and some long range objectives. The Executive Council was strengthened. Office of Treasurer was changed to Director of Finance and Treasurer. The President of the Church was given an Executive Assistant, as well as other assistants. Conference Ministers would be organized into a Council of Conference Executives.

Heard retiring President Ben Herbster declare that the racial crisis is "by all odds the most perplexing problem in America. We stand on the brink of destruction because what we have done has been all too little and all too late. We must never lose sight of the fact that after James Forman and the Manifesto are long forgotten, we are going to have this problem with us — the problem of inequality, injustice, and unequal opportunity." Dr. Herbster noted that "the lines are hardening" between races. "It is true on the white side," he said, "and I am afraid it is equally true on the black side."

Heard Dr. Herbster state that 66 percent of the churches in the United Church of Christ have less than 300 members and 26 percent have less than 100 members.

Registered 716 Synodical delegates,

National Secretary Cites Gains And Losses, 1968

Dr. Joseph H. Evans, UCC national secretary, has released the first available statistics on United Church gains and losses for 1968.

Dr. Evans pegged total membership in the denomination at 2,032,000, a loss of 20,000 over the previous year. However, he pointed out, most Protestant bodies are finding that their membership rolls are not keeping up with the general population trend. "We are discovering who our members are," said Dr. Evans. "The day of the padded roll is over."

The net change in the number of UCC congregations dropped from 6,908 in 1967 to 6,866 last year, Dr. Evans reported.

"We received 12 former Congregational Christian Churches into the United Church of Christ," he said. "I can only identify two that joined the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches."

While 17 churches withdrew from the UCC, Dr. Evans said, the church received 19 new congregations. In addition, 52 churches merged to form 24 congregations.

plus a variety of other delegates and visitors, totaling approximately 2,400 people. Planned to meet in Grand Rapids, Mich., in 1971.

Heard James Forman with his Black Manifesto and rejected his demands by committing "financial support and leadership to programs directed to the realization of justice and freedom for all people . . . through the agencies of the church."